

# SUPPORT AT CHECKPOINTS

November 2018



*UNHCR and its donors' support to the EECPs are visible at all checkpoints, such as in Mayorsk EECP (photo). This photo shows booths of the State Border Guards as well as shades for the waiting areas provided by UNHCR. Photo: UNHCR*

## Background

There is a 500 km 'contact line' which separates Government controlled areas (GCA) and non-Government controlled areas (NGCA) in eastern Ukraine. Along the 'contact line', there are five open Exit-Entry Check Points (EECP) in Hnutove, Novotroitske, Marinka, Mayorsk, and Stanytsia Luhanska, where internally displaced and conflict affected persons cross to visit relatives, buy food and other goods, receive social payments and check on their property. Since the opening of these EECPs, the number of people crossing the 'contact line' continues to grow. In October 2018 alone, there were 1,243,500 recorded crossings through all five of the EECPs. This represents an increase of over four per cent compared to the same period last year. Long queues and correspondingly, long waiting times at checkpoints continue to be reported. During their journey to cross the 'contact line', very often people face difficult weather conditions, and slow processing times. These civilians who cross the 'contact line' have limited access to basic services such as drinking water, latrines, weather shelters, heating, and medical care.

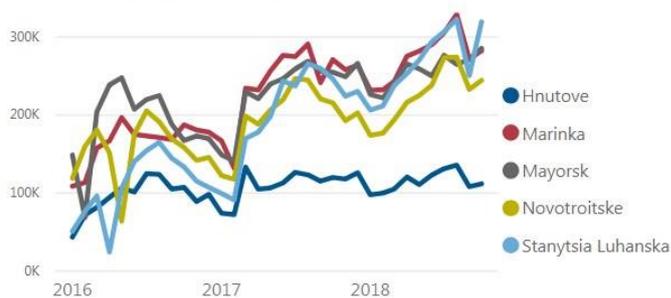
# 11,372,400

Crossings of the five checkpoints since the beginning of 2018 until end of October, 2018.

# 17%

Increase of crossings in 2018 as compared with 2017.

### Crossings by checkpoint



Source: the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS)

All SBGS statistics available on Checkpoint Crossings Trends Dashboard: <https://goo.gl/YnsaH6>

## Recent improvements by authorities

Since the establishment of the EECs, the Government of Ukraine has invested significant efforts in improving the conditions for persons crossing the EECs. Recent achievements include:

- Marinka EEC has been fully upgraded by the authorities in 2018. Those improvements include heated/air-conditioned waiting modules, upgraded lavatories available at all the sectors of the EEC, enhanced water and sewage systems and improved road conditions.
- Since September 2018, authorities have initiated reconstruction of the Novotroitske and Hnutove EEC to ensure dignified crossing conditions for commuters through installing toilets, air-conditioned/heated waiting premises, weatherproof inspection areas and improving road conditions.
- A free bus has been supporting those crossing EECs in Novotroitske and Marinka to access the nearby towns of Volnovakha and Marinka respectively. In these towns people have access to markets, banks, health and social services, pension funds etc.
- Stanytsia Luhanska EEC was reconstructed by the authorities in the summer of 2018, with the installation of new modules for border guards (with a significant increase of the working places), state emergency services, new metal sunshades for people waiting in line, an Oschadbank module, toilets, an emergency shelter and improved road conditions.

## Support by UNHCR

On the government-controlled side and with funding from various donor countries, UNHCR and its partners provide a range of support to facilitate freedom of movement and to improve conditions for people waiting to cross the 'contact line' including:

- UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska provides individual accompaniment for vulnerable individuals facing difficulties while crossing the 'contact line'. The UNHCR has provided **19 wheelchairs** to Mayorsk and Stanytsia Luhanska to facilitate the crossing of vulnerable elderly persons. Crossing conditions at Stanytsia Luhanska EEC are of particular concern as it is the only pedestrian EEC and the only EEC serving the entire Luhansk region.
- UNHCR's NGO partners **monitor the protection environment** in Donetsk and Luhansk regions by maintaining a **field presence** near the 'contact line', and by conducting regular monitoring and emergency response missions to checkpoints.

- From January to October 2018, UNHCR's partner the Right to Protection (R2P) interviewed 21,585 persons crossing all five checkpoints. This year, UNHCR and R2P compiled [an online dashboard](#) that is updated on a monthly basis <https://goo.gl/fZxXD1>.
- UNHCR has provided **14 fully furnished booths and 78 laptop computers** to the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) at the five checkpoints in 2017.
- UNHCR has provided **eight heated tents** to the State Emergency Service (SES) for civilians waiting to cross the 'contact line'. Since 2016, UNHCR also built or provided materials for temporary weather shelters, including sunshades, benches and fences. Some weather shelters have been replaced or even upgraded by the authorities.
- UNHCR delivered **50 body cameras** to SBGS at the Mayorsk checkpoint to prevent corruption. UNHCR will continue its cooperation with the SBGS on prevention of abuse and corruption.
- UNHCR's partners R2P and the Norwegian Refugee Council provide **protection counselling and legal assistance** at the checkpoints providing improved access to relevant information regarding human rights. The Government of Ukraine also provides access to free legal assistance in some EECs.
- UNHCR installed **information stands and boxes of leaflets and brochures**, which facilitates the access of persons crossing with information on different services in the GCA, including references to other NGOs, Government services, state institutions and legal aid providers. In Stanytsia Luhanska, UNHCR supported the installation of **loudspeakers** to disseminate information about services and information about emergencies and whether shelling is happening near the EEC.

UNHCR's support to the EECs in eastern Ukraine aims at promoting effective and dignified crossing procedures for its persons of concern as they cross back and forth across the 'contact line' in eastern Ukraine as well as facilitate freedom of movement.

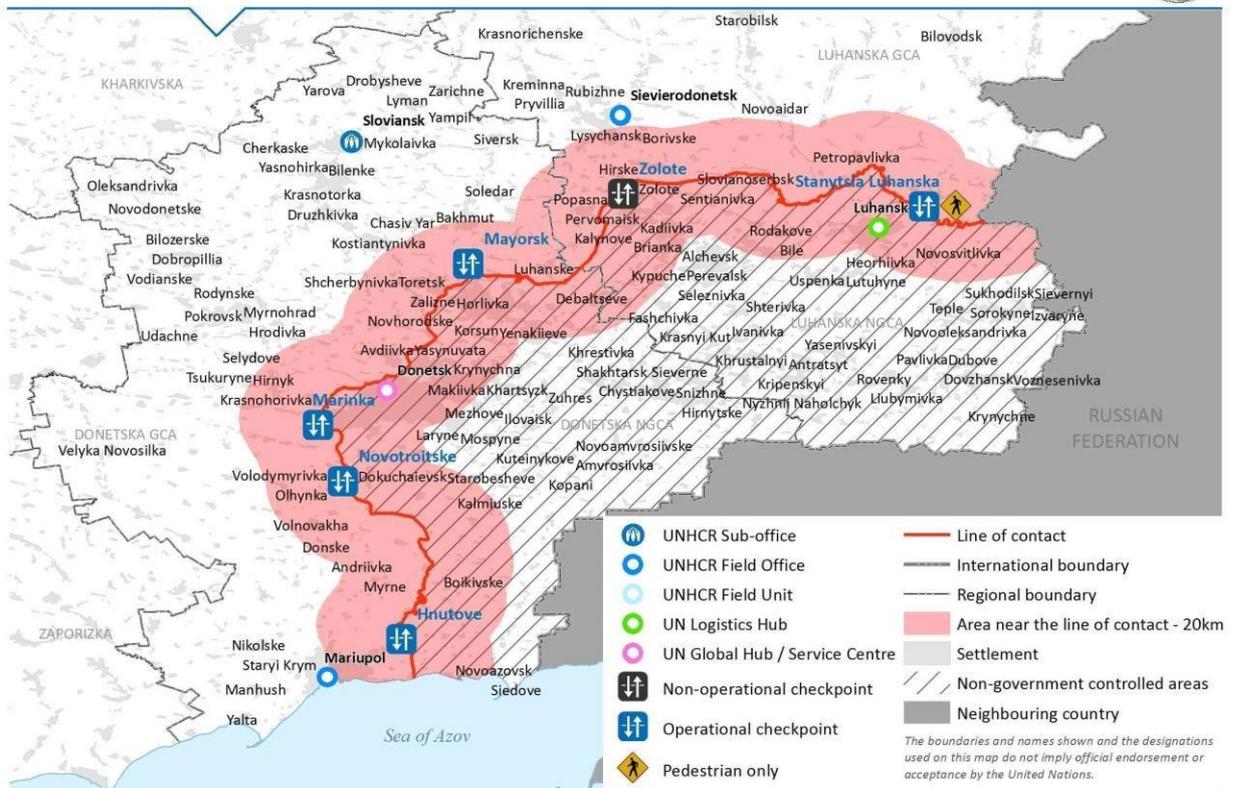
**CONTACTS** E-mail: [ukrkom@unhcr.org](mailto:ukrkom@unhcr.org), Tel: +38 044 288-9710

**LINKS** UNHCR Ukraine: [www.unhcr.org/ua](http://www.unhcr.org/ua) - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine](https://www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UNHCRKyiv](https://www.facebook.com/UNHCRKyiv) - Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/unhcr\\_ukraine](https://www.flickr.com/photos/unhcr_ukraine)



**Ukraine: Entry-exit checkpoints in eastern Ukraine**



Date: 13 Mar 2018 Source: UNHCR Author: UNHCR-Kyiv Feedback: UkraineInfoManagement@unhcr.org Filename: 2018 CP A5

UNHCR Ukraine is grateful to the following donors

